

Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

Nancy Nelson, Editor

Vol. 11 No. 3

Friday, June 6, 2013

The Conservation Pledge

I pledge to protect and preserve the natural resources of the planet Earth, and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, land, forest, and wildlife.

Get Your Flash Drive On

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Meltdown of the Sea Stars

It's a good thing to wonder if you really want to go down to the beach to wade in the tide pools. Watch out for your bare toes. The *Sea Stars* melted. And why doesn't anyone want to talk about FUKUSHIMA's nuclear radiation cloud in the OCEAN, arriving at our beaches and tide pools. See www.wagingpeace.org for information about being a *Hero for Nuclear Zero* and wonder over the meltdown of the *Sea Stars* because they are the OCEAN's "Canaries in the mine".

Marine Ecologist, *Kristen Milligan*, with OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY (OSU) warns Man that the Blue Water Planet's sea stars are disintegrating. The ailment is called "Sea Star Wasting Syndrome", and it is affecting tide pools the entire length of the PACIFIC COAST, from ALASKA and BRITISH COLUMBIA all the way down to southern CALIFORNIA. That, of course, includes the coastal tide pools of OREGON and WASHINGTON.

Bruce Menge, Professor of Marine biology at OSU concurs with Ms. Milligan that there has been a 50% higher wasting away of the *Starfish* since last spring. This is *unprecedented and dire* because it is *Sea Stars* who influence the whole diversity of life in the intertidal zone. With so many *Sea Stars* dissolving, it means the OCEAN has lost her predators of *Mussels* and *Sea Urchins*. The consequence is that the entire marine ecosystem may be thrown out of balance.

Ms. Milligan is research program co-coordinator for OSU's "Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans". They claim to not know why the *Sea Stars* melted. But it's a good thing to wonder because that means you are learning many things. And all the things that you can learn provide you with new insights, and new understandings.

June 5, 2014, DAILY TIDINGS, "Sea Star disease growing on Oregon Coast" by Jeff Barnard, the Associated Press; www.wagingpeace.org)

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June 11, 2014

Page 2

What's Important

In 2008 the UNITED NATIONS (UN) decreed June 8th as WORLD OCEANS DAY, worldwide, every year. While *Gold Beach* is holding its *Oceans filmfest*, that is pertinent to the Planet, Medford is having a beer and beard brawl. But if the OCEAN dies then it is eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow Man dies. You might not have noticed before now that the *Bluefin Tuna* are almost extinct. *This weekend your values are showing.*

Or you might like to attend the *Historic Ashland Armory*, on Sunday, June 8, at 4 p.m., to learn about how the climate is shifting. The location is 208 Oak Street, and admission is FREE.

The *Native Fish Society*, *Rogue River Keeper*, and *Waterwatch* invite you to see the documentary film, "*Damnation*" on Monday, June 9th. Tickets are \$10 and available at both the *Ashland Fly Shop* and the *Ashland Outdoor Store* or online at www.rogueriverkeeper.org. The location is the SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY's *Recital Hall*.

(Sources: May 24, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "*The Future of American Eating*" by Eugenia Bone; June 5, 2014 THE ROGUE MESSENGER)

The World's Only Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab

Ashland, OREGON, is where the DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR's "*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab*" is located. It is the EARTH's one and only *Wildlife Forensics Lab*, helping to solve wildlife crimes around the world.

Did you know that the federal U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE agency is responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, plants, wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of the American People.

There is a special section on www.lab.fws.gov that was created for kids and students interested in wildlife forensics.

(Source: www.ashlandchamber.com , "*Living and Doing Business*")

Oregon's LNG Terminal is Next Up

The proposed LNG gas export facility in Warrenton, OREGON, is the next one in the DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY's queue. Conditional export approval seems to be just a few weeks from now, based on how fast the DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) is processing applications.

An ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW must first be cleared by the energy companies before capital can be raised and loans secured to build the LNG gas export terminal. The required permits to export natural gas from the *United States of America* (U.S.A.) to any nation in the world have to be obtained first. The DOE asserts that once the OREGON permits are in place then Warrenton LNG gas terminal moves forward with partnership between ASIA and NORTH AMERICA. The public comment period is just 45-days.

(Source: May 30, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "*Gas Export Proposal Is Revised*" by Alicia Mundy and Alison Sider)

Draconian Court Ruling

In May, 2014, of this year the NINTH U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS upheld an archaic World War I era rule that the government can commandeer up to half of a farmer's harvest.

The outdated statute authorized the *Raisin Administrative Committee* to seize as "reserve" up to half of the CALIFORNIA raisin yield in order to allegedly prevent gluts and stabilize markets. The NINTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS fined *Farmer Hornes* \$700,000 because he refused to comply with the raisin cartel.

The NINTH U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS judges apparently read the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) *press releases* then granted sweeping powers to the cartel's committee to seize 47% of *Mr. Hornes'* harvest, without violating the *Fifth Amendment's* takings clause, as long as the government "*intends*" to drive up crop prices.

THE PARITY INDEX was concocted by government agricultural economists in the 1920s to justify federal aid to farmers in correlation with the ratio that prevailed in 1910-1914, a boom time for farmers. Such federal interference spurred a boom and bust that ravaged AMERICAN FARMERS in the 1920s.

To justify perpetuating federal control of farming business, the NINTH CIRCUIT panel went back to what happened in the 1930s *World War I* era when the USDA provided cheap credit to European allies to purchase boatloads of harvest. In the 1930s-era, CONGRESS wanted taxpayers to pay for a program that makes consumers *have* to pay higher prices.

The ***Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937*** authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to appoint committees to control production, and crop marketing orders, based on the NEW DEAL management of abundance through universal MONOPOLY and universal SCARCITY.

The recent NINTH CIRCUIT DECISION quoted a 1943 SUPREME COURT ruling about Industry being compelled to sell at less than parity prices.

The NINTH CIRCUIT ruled that a taking is not taking if the government "*intends*" to benefit the victim, no matter how much damage the government theft inflicts. The judges played down the farmer's financial losses as "*personal property*" not "*real property*" such as land. In other words, since less than 100% of the farmer's harvest was stolen, the farmer did not lose *all* economically valuable use of his personal property.

That's a slippery slope when refusal to surrender control of your farm's harvested yields to the government results in fines and you are banned from suing in federal court for unjust takings. It means the government can confiscate without compensation.

The NINTH CIRCUIT opined that to avoid the "reserve" requirement, plant different crops than a vineyard, because raisins are subject to federally authorized commandeering. The eyes of the world are on *Mr. Hornes* to appeal to the SUPREME COURT to overturn the raisin cartel, and numerous other USDA cartels. *Now you know why raisins are overpriced.*

(Source: May 27, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "*Why the California Raisins Are Singing the Blues*" by James Bovard)

LiDAR Illumination

There is inherent idiocy in apathy. The *Mount Ashland Association* needs a rude awakening before something like Oso, WASHINGTON, happens to *Mt. Ashland*. Pretending to be blind, deaf, and dumb about the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES use of high tech aerial laser (LiDAR) mapping to see through vegetation on *Mt. Ashland* is childishy impudent.

The LiDAR evidence was told to *Ashland's Mayor and City Council* during the public hearing about the ski expansion proposal, and the city leaders are without excuse for disregarding the scientific data that was presented at public hearings. The state agency's data identified hidden landslide threats to *Interstate Highway I-5* when LiDAR detected in 2011 that the *Mt. Ashland* ski area expansion area's soil is erosion prone, and unstable. LiDAR data proves debris flows from previous *Mt. Ashland* landslides. To cut new ski runs into the *Ashland Creek* watershed area with its landslide potential is foolishness.

They also ignored audience concerns over scientific predictions that *Mt. Ashland* would have less snow due to *Climate Change*. Now we are suffering the predicted drought. *Talk about sheer stupidity in believing what you want to believe, instead of being attentive to reality.*

(Source: June 4, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "*Mt. Ashland ignores reality*" by Frances Dunham, *Ashland, Letters to the Editor*)

That Pink Slime Hamburger Cost You Six-Months of Shower Water

Every pound of meat you eat uses as much water as six-months worth of showers. It takes 13 pounds of grain to produce one pound of beef. Perhaps that's why CARGIL INC has brought back *Pink Slime* sprayed with ammonia, as filler for hamburger, meatloaf, and sausage products. *Go figure.*

You might want to stop eating other sentient beings now because going vegan is 50% more effective in mitigating the carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide effects of CLIMATE CHANGE, than switching to a hybrid car. Going vegan can be as easy as waking up one day soon and eliminating all animal products. I mean, if you really want to *walk the talk* about sustainability.

(Sources: May 24, 2014 THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "*The Future of American Eating*" by Eugenia Bone and "*Pink Slime's Back in Favor as Prices Soar for U.S. Beef*" by Jacob Bunge; and Kelsey Gee PETA's starter kit, GO VEGETARIAN, GO VEGAN, "*Eating Meat Harms the Planet*"; the UNITED NATIONS)

Mother Nature Says "Hail No" to GMOs

Instead of cursing the darkness, the Planet has lit her candle. *Mother Nature* sent BASEBALL-SIZED HAIL, to stone the corn belt of IOWA and NEBRASKA this week. The giant hailstones and damaging winds swathed through the *Midwest Farm Belt*, and flooded *Omaha*, NEBRASKA. One could wonder if the *Planet* is insisting on a different kind of governance than agrochemical, but *Nature* peaces out over permaculture.

(Source: June 4, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "*Storms bring huge hail, flooding to Nebraska, Iowa*" DES MOINES)

The Rogue CSA

Community compost is a service offered by *Rogue Produce*. I'm wondering if you will want to have your food scraps picked up once a week and delivered to your local farmers. The nutrients in soil can be rebuilt by utilizing compost instead of chemical fertilizers.

Some people want food security. Did you know that local farm produce can be delivered right to your door. Home delivery is a convenient way to make sure your family obtains affordable locally grown and seasonally fresh food. What could be easier than that. You can feel good about eating *Rogue Produce* because it is produced without poisonous chemicals. May your health and spirit be vibrant! For more information about living vibrantly, call *The Rogue CSA*, at 541.301.3426, or visit their websites at www.rogueproduce.com, and www.roguevalleycompost.com.

Grandmothers and Others

Your book club may want to discuss the concepts of awareness and intention. *Bodhisattva* is awareness that we're all in it together, and *Bodhichitta* is having the intention to love all beings, for the very sake of Life itself. Author *Joanna Macy*'s new book will be out in October, 2014. It is called COMING BACK TO LIFE. See www.joannamacy.org for more information.

Or you may prefer *John Robbin's* book ACTIVE HOPE, *How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy*.

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